

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A notifying method comprising:
receiving an indication that a notification should be delivered to a plurality of recipients;
identifying contact information for the plurality of recipients;
initiating an outbound packetized call to more than one of the plurality of recipients;
recognizing an answering of a first call directed to a called party included in the plurality of recipients;
connecting the first call to a multicast server; and
delivering a message with the multicast server during the first call.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a connection supporting the first call comprises a twisted pair link, further comprising:
disconnecting from the first call; and
indicating successful delivery of the message to the called party.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
recognizing that customer premise equipment associated with the first call comprises specialized ring tone functionality; and
communicating an specialized incoming call signal to the customer premise equipment.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a list of users to be notified in response to receipt of a given indicator;
determining that the received indication is the given indicator; and
using the list of users to identify contact information for the plurality of recipients.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the outbound packetized call comprises a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the outbound packetized call to more than one hundred of the plurality of recipients.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein a VoIP switch initiates the outbound packetized call to more than one of the plurality of recipients, wherein the VoIP switch has a simultaneous connections limit, further wherein the more than one of the plurality of recipients comprises a number of recipients greater than 75% of the simultaneous connections limit.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the multicast server comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server, further comprising:
disconnecting from the first call; and
indicating successful delivery of the message to the called party..

9. The method of claim 5, wherein the contact information comprises a VoIP telephone number for each of the plurality of recipients.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising playing an audio file representing the message, the audio file having a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

11. A notification system, comprising:

a memory maintaining contact information for a collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a given notification signal, the collection of subscribers comprising a first user and the contact information comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone number for the first user;

a network interface operable to receive the notification signal and to output a trigger signal in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a message to be played to the collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the given notification signal;

a VoIP switch responsive to the trigger signal and operable to support a plurality of simultaneous connections, the VoIP switch further operable to initiate outbound VoIP calls to a plurality of users in the collection of subscribers;

a call answered mechanism operable to recognize an answering of a given VoIP call placed to the first user; and

an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server operable to connect to the given VoIP call and to deliver the message via the given VoIP call.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the VoIP switch is operable to communicatively couple to a plurality of the subscribers across links comprising twisted pair wiring.

13. The system of claim 11, further comprising a ring signal operable to initiate sending of a ring voltage in connection with the given VoIP call.

14. The system of claim 11, further comprising a notify list comprising the collection of subscribers to be notified in response to the given notification signal and a second collection of subscribers to be notified in response to a second notification signal, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive the second notification signal and to output a second trigger signal in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

15. The system of claim 14, further comprising a second message to be played to the second collection of subscribers in response to receipt of the second notification signal.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the given notification signal comprises an Emergency Alert System notification.

17. The system of claim 11, further comprising a call log engine operable to track a metric associated with message delivery to the collection of subscribers, the call log engine further operable to initiate a retry signal directing the VoIP switch to retry a call to a given subscriber.

18. The system of claim 11, further comprising a specialized ring tone signal communicated to customer premise equipment operable to play a specialized ring tone that identifies an incoming call as an attempt to deliver the message.

19. The system of claim 11, further comprising a broadband modem providing at least a portion of a link communicatively coupling the VoIP switch to a piece of customer premises equipment.

20. The system of claim 11, wherein the contact information further comprises an additional communication address for the first user, the additional communication address selected from the group consisting of an electronic mail address, a Plain Old Telephony Service telephone number, an Instant Messaging address, a Short Messaging Service address, an Enhanced Messaging Service address, a Multimedia Messaging Service address, and a wireless telephone number.

21. A method of facilitating multicast notification, comprising:
maintaining a collection of callable Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone numbers;
creating a call list comprising at least one VoIP telephone number from the collection;
associating the call list with an event trigger;
saving a file representing a message to be played to the call list in response to receipt of the event trigger;
initiating an individual call to the at least one VoIP telephone number and a second individual call to a different telephone number on the call list in response to receipt of the event trigger;
passing an answered call to an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server;
playing the file to generate an output signal; and
communicating the signal in connection with the answered call via the IP multicast server.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
creating a second call list comprising the at least one VoIP telephone number from the collection; and
associating the second call list with a different event trigger.
23. The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the call list based at least partially on a geographic location of a telephone station associated with the VoIP telephone number.
24. The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the call list based at least partially on a group affiliation of a user associated with the VoIP telephone number.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the file has a format selected from the group consisting of a .WAV file, a .MIDI file, and a .AU file.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
initiating presentation of an administrator interface to a remote party;
receiving via the interface a request to create a second call list;
creating the second call list; and
associating the second call list with a different event trigger.

27. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable data to maintain a call list comprising Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) numbers, to recognize an event trigger signaling a request to place a VoIP call to each VoIP number on the call list, to direct a VoIP switch to begin placing VoIP calls to each VoIP number on the call list, to direct the VoIP switch to connect answered calls to an Internet Protocol (IP) multicast server, and to direct the IP multicast server to play a message.